

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

P.O. Box 30022, Lansing, MI 48909

1st District

Term expires

JEFFREY G. COLLINS, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2001
ROMAN S. GRIBBS, Northville	Jan. 1, 2001
HAROLD HOOD, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2003
MICHAEL J. TALBOT, Grosse Pointe.	Jan. 1, 2003
HELENE N. WHITE, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2005
KURTIS T. WILDER, Canton	Jan. 1, 2001
BRIAN K. ZAHRA, Northville Township	Jan. 1, 2001

2nd District

MARK J. CAVANAGH, Royal Oak	Jan. 1, 2003
MARTIN M. DOCTOROFF, Birmingham	Jan. 1, 2005
E. THOMAS FITZGERALD, Owosso	Jan. 1, 2003
HILDA R. GAGE, Bloomfield Hills.	Jan. 1, 2001
KATHLEEN JANSEN, St. Clair Shores	Jan. 1, 2001
MICHAEL J. KELLY, Bloomfield Hills	Jan. 1, 2001
HENRY WILLIAM SAAD, Birmingham.	Jan. 1, 2003

3rd District

RICHARD A. BANDSTRA, Grand Rapids, Chief Judge.	Jan. 1, 2003
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2005
JANE E. MARKEY, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2003
WILLIAM B. MURPHY, East Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2001
JANET T. NEFF, East Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2001
DAVID H. SAWYER, East Grand Rapids.	Jan. 1, 2005
MICHAEL R. SMOLENSKI, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2001

4th District

RICHARD ALLEN GRIFFIN, Traverse City.	Jan. 1, 2003
DONALD E. HOLBROOK, JR., Lansing.	Jan. 1, 2003
GARY R. McDONALD, Saginaw	Jan. 1, 2001
PATRICK M. METER, Saginaw	Jan. 1, 2001
PETER D. O'CONNELL, Mt. Pleasant	Jan. 1, 2001
DONALD S. OWENS, Williamston	Jan. 1, 2001
WILLIAM C. WHITBECK, Lansing, Chief Judge Pro Tem	Jan. 1, 2005

CARL L. GROMEK, Chief Clerk/Research Director

Source: State Court Administrative Office

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF JUDGES



**CHIEF JUDGE
RICHARD A. BANDSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Grand Rapids, born April 2, 1950, at Chicago; graduate of Illiana Christian High School, Lansing, Illinois; B.A., Calvin College (Grand Rapids); M.A. (sociology) and J.D., University of Chicago; married to the former Cynthia Gale Triezenberg since 1970; daughters: Carissa and Justine; associate professor of sociology, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, 1974-1976; associate editor, *The University of Chicago Law Review*, 1978-1980; law practice at the Federal Trade Commission (Chicago), Jenner & Block (Chicago) and Warner, Norcross & Judd (Grand Rapids); state representative (1985-1994) from Grand Rapids with service as Floor Leader of the Michigan House, vice-chair of Judiciary and Public Health Committees, member of other legislative committees, chair of the Task Force on Taxpayer Rights, chair of the Task Force on AIDS Policy and member of the Commission on the Courts in the Twenty-First Century; recipient of numerous awards for legislative accomplishment including the American Legislative Exchange Council's Outstanding Legislator Award for chairing the Task Force on Civil Justice; recipient of the 1988 Annual Grand Rapids Jaycees Distinguished Service Award for work with community programs; board member and/or board president: Habitat for Humanity of Grand Rapids, Community Reconciliation Center, Association for Public Justice, Advisory Center for Teens, Eastown Community Association, Committee on Race Relations (Christian Reformed Church), Alternative Directions and World Affairs Council of West Michigan; elder and deacon, Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids; Legal Specialist, American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative, serving in Bratislava, Slovakia, 1998-1999; speaker, Michigan Judicial Conference, 1995; panel member, Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference, 1995 and 1998; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1994, to an eight-year term; appointed Chief Judge Pro Tem, 1997; appointed Chief Judge, 1999.



**JUDGE
MARK J. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Royal Oak; born August 12, 1953; B.A., University of Michigan; J.D., Detroit College of Law; domestic relations investigator, Wayne County Friend of the Court; assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, Appellate and Felony Trial Divisions; private law practice, 1985; Special Assistant Attorney General, Worker's Compensation Division, State of Michigan; professional activities include the State Bar of Michigan, Recorder's Court Bar Association, Wayne County Juvenile Court Trial Attorney Association, the Irish-American Lawyers Association, Michigan Judges Association, and is admitted to practice in the Federal courts in Michigan. Judge Cavanagh was reelected to a 6-year term on the Court of Appeals, 2nd District, in November 1996. He is married to the former Claire Bernacki and has three daughters, Laura, Katie and Ava.



**JUDGE
JEFFREY G. COLLINS**

Term expires January 1, 2001

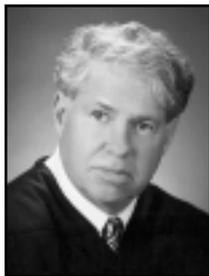
Judge Jeffrey G. Collins is a native Detroiter. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and a 1984 honor graduate of Howard University School of Law. Prior to his appointment to Detroit Recorder's Court, Judge Collins practiced law for nine years and served as a legal analyst for local and national news stations. Judge Collins also served as the Chief Judge of the Criminal Division of Wayne County Circuit Court. In 1998, Judge Collins made history by being the first African American to run for the Michigan Supreme Court as a nonincumbent. Shortly after the election, Judge Collins was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Judge Collins is a past president of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and a mentor in the "Man to Man" program at Paul Robeson Academy. He is also an instructor at Wayne State Law School. Judge Collins has served on task forces fighting against domestic violence and for children's justice. He is a board member of the Colin Powell Academy and lifelong member of Plymouth United Church of Christ. He is married and his wife, Lois, is a practicing attorney in Detroit. They have two children, Justin and Jessica.



**JUDGE
MARTIN M. DOCTOROFF**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Birmingham; born January 27, 1933, at Cambridge, Massachusetts; graduated from Boston Latin School, 1950; B.A., Harvard College, 1954; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1957; married to Allene M. Doctoroff, Ph.D., four adult sons: Daniel, Mark, Andrew and Thomas; senior partner with Bushnell, Gage, Doctoroff and Reizen, 1980-1986; partnerships in Zussman, Doctoroff and Wartell, 1975-1980; Bellinson, Doctoroff and Wartell, 1965-1974; Bellinson and Doctoroff, 1960-1965; U.S. Government Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1957-1960; taught courses on Pre-Law Remedies and Mediation at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education; American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Michigan State Bar Association, Massachusetts State Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, and Southfield Bar Association; member, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Committee on Judges and Lawyers Assistance, Standing Committee on Grievance; chairman, Standing Committee on Grievance; member, Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications; member, Attorney Discipline Board hearing panel; chairman, Attorney Discipline Board hearing panel; member, Attorney Discipline Board, 1984-1990; member, Former Society of Special Agents; public administrator for the county of Oakland; Special Assistant Attorney General, State of Michigan; Special Prosecutor for the county of Oakland Grand Jury; chairman, city of Birmingham, Planning Board; chairman, Michigan Regional Advisory Board, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; member, National Law Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; member, National Civil Rights Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; member, ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Selection, Tenure and Compensation; member, ABA Committee on Appellate Practice and ABA House of Delegates; member, ABA Judicial Administration Division; Secretary of Appellate Judges Conference, JAD; commissioner, State Bar of Michigan; Council of Chief Judges Executive Board; president-elect, Council of Chief Judges Intermediate Courts of Appeal; adjunct professor, Wayne State University, 1997; professionalism member, National Center of State Courts Committees; Appellate Court Performance Standards, Time on Appeal; appointed by Governor James Blanchard to the Court of Appeals, 2nd District, on April 1, 1987, and elected in November 1988; reelected in November 1992 and November 1998; Chief Judge, 1992-1996.



**JUDGE
E. THOMAS FITZGERALD**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Owosso; born November 29, 1939, in Detroit. He attended Assumption High School in Windsor, Ontario, and the University of Detroit, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. From 1963 to 1966, he attended the University of Detroit Law School, receiving both a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree. Judge Fitzgerald was in private practice in Detroit from 1967 to 1968. In 1968, he joined Ellis Bowler & Associates in Durand. In 1969, he established the law firm of Fitzgerald & Dumon, P.C., in Owosso, concentrating primarily on the practice of criminal and domestic law. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, American Bar Association, Shiawassee County Bar Association (of which he is a past treasurer, secretary and president), Genesee County Bar Association, Ingham County Bar Association, American Judges Association, Michigan Judges Association, and State Bar of Michigan Appellate Court Administration Committee; Rules Committee judge of Moot Court Competition for Thomas M. Cooley Law School and American Trial Lawyers Association; Michigan Youth in Government; Irish-American Club of Lansing, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, American Judicature Society, Michigan Association of Professions, University of Detroit Alumni Association, Appellate Bench/Bar Executive Committee, Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society; Fellow, Michigan State Bar Association. He is married to Assistant Attorney General Kathy Fitzgerald and has three children: John, Jennifer and Mary Kate; is a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Owosso, and has been active in many civic organizations, including the Boy Scouts; Honorary Chairman of 1991 March of Dimes Walk America, and Board of Directors, American Heart Association. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1962; first elected to the Court of Appeals, 2nd District, in 1990 to a six-year term; reelected in 1996 to another six-year term.



**JUDGE
HILDA R. GAGE**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Oakland County; born June 16, 1939; judge of the 6th Judicial Circuit (Oakland County), 18 years; Chief Judge, two years; became a member of the Board of the National Judicial College in 1987, elected vice-chair (1989); past chair of the American Bar Association National Conference of State Trial Judges, the ABA National Conference of State Trial Judges Committee on Court Delay Reduction, and the ABA Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Costs and Delay; ABA House of Delegates, 1982; elected to the American Law Institute in 1981, and elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation in 1979; joined the National Center for State Courts Coordinating Council on Life-Sustaining Treatment Decision-Making in July 1989; past chair of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission (1991) and the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan; president, Michigan Judges Association, 1987; member of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission (1975-1978); appointed by Governor Engler to the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines Commission in April 1995; recipient of numerous honors, including "Michiganian of the Year" distinction by *The Detroit News*, the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Award (1995), the State Bar of Michigan Roberts P. Hudson Award, the Oakland County Bar Association Frances R. Avadenka Award, the National Center for State Courts Distinguished Service Award, and the John N. O'Brien Memorial Award; first recipient of the American Bar Association National Conference of State Trial Judges Distinguished Service Award; serves on the Children's Hospital of Michigan Board of Trustees and on the boards of directors of the Michigan Chapters of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Dysautonomia Foundation; appointed to the Court of Appeals, November 1996; elected, November 1998.



**JUDGE
ROMAN S. GRIBBS**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Northville; born December 29, 1925, at Detroit; graduated magna cum laude from the University of Detroit in 1952 with a degree in economics and accounting, and from the University of Detroit Law School in 1954 with a Juris Doctor degree; wife, Lee; father of 5 adult children; attended grammar school in a one-room schoolhouse in the Michigan Thumb Area and graduated from Capac High School in 1944; received an honorable discharge with the rank of sergeant from the United States Army in 1948; instructor at the University of Detroit, 1954-1956; Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, 1956-1964; in private law practice with the firm of Shaheen, Gribbs and Shaheen, 1964-1966; Sheriff of Wayne County, 1968-1969; Mayor of Detroit, 1970-1974; a partner in the law firm of Fenton, Nederlander, Dodge, Barris and Gribbs, 1974-1975; judge of the 3rd Judicial Circuit (Wayne County) from January 1975 to December 1982; professional activities include membership in the Advocates Bar Association, Executive Committee, Judicial Conference, Catholic Lawyers Society, State Bar of Michigan, Michigan Judicial Institute, League of Women Voters of Michigan, Friends of the Archbishop of Detroit, Art of Poland Associates/Detroit Institute of Arts, and chairman of the Advisory Council of the Colorado Institute; director, Michigan Judges Association (president 1992); Board of Directors, Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Chairperson, Public Administration Foundation, Inc. (an affiliate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn); past member, board of directors: Michigan Judges Association, University of Detroit, Bank of the Commonwealth, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Greater Detroit Area Hospital Council, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, Detroit Renaissance, Economic Club of Detroit, Michigan Conference of Mayors, Michigan Opera Theatre, and the Michigan Sheriffs Association; was president of the National League of Cities; has also been active in the Boy Scouts of America, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, American Judicature Society, Family Conciliation Court, Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Supreme Court Defense Services Committee, Michigan Youth Commission, NAACP, National Urban Coalition, Old Newsboys Goodfellow Fund, United Foundation, World Society of Ekistics, World Trade Club of Detroit, and the Slavic American National Association; was an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan, adjunct faculty member of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and a guest lecturer at the University of Detroit and Wayne State University. Elected to the Court of Appeals in November 1982, and took office on January 1, 1983.



**JUDGE
RICHARD ALLEN GRIFFIN**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Traverse City; born April 15, 1952, at Traverse City; B.A. magna cum laude, Western Michigan University Honors College, 1973; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1977; married to N. Christine Griffin; children: Sarah, Kelley, and Karaline; member, State Bar of Michigan (1977), the Florida Bar (1978), Federal District Court-Western District, Michigan; Federal District Court-Eastern District, Michigan, and U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; law clerk, the Honorable Ross W. Campbell, 1975-1977; associate, Williams, Coulter, Cunningham, Davison & Read, 1977-1981; partner, Coulter, Cunningham, Davison & Read, 1981-1985; partner, Read & Griffin, 1985-1988; member, American Judicature Society; former member of the Federal Judicial Selection Committee for the Western District of Michigan; president, Grand Traverse Zoological Society; past chairman, Yellow Ribbon Committee; past chairman, Long Lake Township Building Authority; advisor and chief judge, YMCA Model Judiciary Program; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1988; reelected to the Court of Appeals, 4th District, in November 1996.



**JUDGE
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Grand Rapids; born May 10, 1947, to Richard C. and Joan Hoekstra; married to Greta J. (Buis) Hoekstra; children Bryan and Karin; member of Shawnee Park Christian Reformed Church; B.A., Calvin College, 1970; J.D., Valparaiso University School of Law, 1973; Assistant Kent County Prosecuting Attorney, 1973-1985, founded and supervised Juvenile Division, 1977-1979; elected to 61st District Court, 1984 and reelected, 1990; Chief Judge, 1989-1993; adjunct professor of criminal justice, Calvin College and formerly of Grand Rapids Community College; board member, Young Life of Grand Rapids; former board member, Grand Rapids Christian Schools, Very Special Arts, Project Rehab, Kent County Community Corrections, Family Impact, Kent County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee; elected to Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1994.



**JUDGE
DONALD E. HOLBROOK, JR.**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Clare, who has resided in Eaton County since 1975; born October 29, 1931, at Grand Rapids; A.B., Albion College; LL.B., Wayne State University Law School; wife: Dr. Linda A. Patriarca; children: Gregg Bradford and Christopher Todd; Methodist; member, Masonic Lodge; past president of Clare Kiwanis Club and delegate to 1964 Kiwanis International Convention; State Bar of Michigan; American Judicature Society; twice regional Michigan Week chairman; past Dad Advisor of DeMolay for Boys; past chairman, board of directors, Clare Osteopathic Hospital; past chairman, Tomahawk District, Boy Scouts of America; U.S. Air Force 1957-1961 — Judge Advocate General Department, discharged as captain; Clare County Friend of the Court, 1962-1964; elected to House of Representatives in 1964 and reelected in 1966, 1968, and 1970; while a legislator served as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and as primary author of Michigan's District Court Act in 1968; elected circuit judge, 21st Judicial Circuit, 1972; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1974, 1984, 1990, and to the 4th District in 1996.



**JUDGE
HAROLD HOOD**

Term expires January 1, 2003

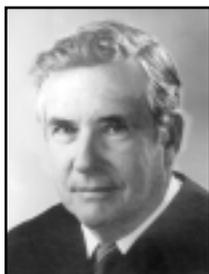
Of Detroit; born January 14, 1931, at Hamtramck; Detroit public schools; graduated summa cum laude from Cass Technical High School, 1948; B.A., University of Michigan, 1952, and immediately entered the U.S. Army, serving as a first lieutenant with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea; upon returning to civilian life, entered Wayne State University Law School and received J.D. degree, with distinction, in 1959; formed own law firm, Hood, Rice and Charity, and practiced until 1961; joined staff of the Corporation Counsel of the City of Detroit, serving as Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel; in 1969, joined staff of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and served as Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney until 1973; professional activities have included the American Bar Association, The Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association, the Detroit Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan (of which he was the founding chairperson), the American Judicature Society, the Federal Bar Association, the Michigan Judges Association; the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers; vice president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and one of the original directors of Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Service Centers; former chairman, Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, 1986-1988; chair, Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts, 1987-1989; co-chair, State Bar of Michigan Commission on Open Justice, 1998 to present; board of trustees, Ecumenical Theological Seminary; served on the Supreme Court Committee to Review and Consolidate Michigan Court Rules and is also chairman of the Supreme Court's Standard Civil Jury Instructions Committee; adjunct professor at Central Michigan University and Detroit College of Law; serves on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute and at the National Judicial College; appointed to the Common Pleas Court of Detroit in 1973, was elected to that judgeship in 1974 and reelected in 1976; appointed to the Recorder's Court for the City of Detroit in 1977, and to the Wayne Circuit Court in 1978; reelected to the 3rd Judicial Circuit in 1978 and in 1980; president, Old Newsboys, Detroit Goodfellows; past president, Wayne State University Law Alumni Association; recipient of 1984 Distinguished Alumni Award, Wayne State University Law School; recipient, 1985 WSU Distinguished Alumni Award; member of the board of the National Council on Alcoholism, Greater Detroit Area, and also a member of the board and chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism, Inc. of New York; president, NCA/Michigan Division; 33rd degree Mason; State Bar of Michigan Champions of Justice Award, 1990; Wolverine Bar Association Distinguished Jurist Award, 1989; Women's Hall of Fame Phillip A. Hart Award, 1991; Order of the Coif, Wayne State Law School, 1992; Trustee, American Inns of Court Foundation and Michigan State Bar Foundation; chaired Supreme Court Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts, 1987-1989; member and past president, Detroit Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; advisory board, Johnson Institute Foundation; member, National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; married to Rev. Dr. Lottie V. Jones-Hood, who is the President/CEO of Babesworld, Inc. and Pastor of First Congregational Church of Detroit; four children: Harold Keith Hood, Kenneth Hood, Kevin Hood, and Karen Hood. Appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor William G. Milliken, effective December 27, 1982; reelected in November 1984, 1990, and 1996.



**JUDGE
KATHLEEN JANSEN**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of St. Clair Shores, Michigan; graduate of Girls Catholic Central High School; B.S., Michigan State University; J.D., University of Detroit Law School; general practice of law (1977-1982) with Mancini & Blumenthal, P.C., became partner and practiced with the firm until 1982; elected Macomb County Probate Judge, 1982, and served through 1984; elected to Macomb County Circuit Court, 1984, and served through 1989; appointed to the Court of Appeals, 1989, and elected to fill balance of term, 1990; reelected to Court of Appeals, 1994; member, State Bar of Michigan, Macomb County Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association, National Association of Women Judges, and Advocates Bar Association; Past President of the Women's Equity Action League — Michigan Chapter.



**JUDGE
MICHAEL J. KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Bloomfield Hills; born June 16, 1929, at Detroit; attended John Carroll University, Kent State University, and the University of Detroit, received a Juris Doctor degree in 1956 and admitted to practice in 1956; received an LL.M. Degree (Master of Laws in the Judicial Process) from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1982; veteran of the Korean War, serving with the Eighth Army in Korea in 1953 and 1954; former member: Judicial Tenure Commission 1977-1985, Chairman 1981-1982, American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, board of directors of Boysville of Michigan, board of advisors of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center; present member: Detroit Athletic Club, Michigan Handball Association, Incorporated Society of Irish/American Lawyers, American Bar Association, Appellate Judges Section, Institute of Judicial Administration, Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Inc., Fellow, Michigan State Bar Foundation. First elected to the Court of Appeals in 1974, and reelected 3 times.



**JUDGE
JANE E. MARKEY**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Grand Rapids; born May 27, 1951, at Saginaw; B.A., with high honors in Spanish/Secondary Education, Michigan State University, 1973; J.D., cum laude, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 1981; editor-in-chief, *Thomas M. Cooley Law Review*; Prehearing Attorney/law clerk, Michigan Court of Appeals, 1981-1982; civil and appellate trial practice, 1982-1990 with the law firms of Baxter & Hammond and Dykema, Gossett (members of Baxter & Hammond formed the Grand Rapids office of Dykema, Gossett in 1984). Elected to the 61st District Court serving the City of Grand Rapids in 1990; reelected in 1992. Member, American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan; hearing panelist, State of Michigan, Attorney Discipline Board, 1989-1995; member, Michigan State Bar Grievance Committee, 1990-1992; Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation; member, Academic Advisory Committee for District Court, 1993-1995; member, American Judges Association; has served as a faculty member for National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the Hillman Advocacy Program, U.S. District Court, Western District, Michigan Judicial Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Married to Attorney Curt Benson; two children, Caitlin and Robert. Elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1994.



**JUDGE
GARY R. McDONALD**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Saginaw; born February 3, 1940, at Saginaw; graduate of St. Mary's Cathedral High School, Saginaw; B.B.A., University of Michigan; J.D., Wayne State University Law School; married September 10, 1966; children: Gavin, Stefanie, and Greg; Catholic; member, St. Mary's Cathedral in Saginaw; district judge, 1972-1976; circuit judge, 1976-1987; Fordney Club; member, Michigan State Bar, and Saginaw County Bar Association; appointed by Governor James Blanchard to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, on February 23, 1987; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, November 1988; reelected November 1994.



**JUDGE
PATRICK MURPHY METER**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Saginaw; born March 17, 1948, in Cleveland, Ohio; attended St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, and graduated from St. Teresa High School in Decatur, Illinois, in 1966; studied one semester at Colegio LaSalle in Arequipa, Peru, as an American Field Service exchange student; educated at the University of Notre Dame, graduating with a B.A. (Spanish) in 1970 and a J.D. in 1973; taught Spanish at the University of Notre Dame at the undergraduate level while attending law school, as well as serving as a juvenile probation officer for two years; married to Barbara Lacasse Meter and is the father of five children; member, Michigan and Texas Bar Associations; admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District; served in the United States Naval Reserves; appointed to the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court bench by Governor Engler in late 1991; elected to a full six-year term in 1992 and again in 1998. From 1973-1984 served Saginaw County as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and then Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; after prosecutorial service, devoted seven years as an associate and then partner in mid-Michigan law firm of Braun, Kendrick, Finkbeiner, Schafer & Murphy; in past years has served as an instructor and member of the adjunct faculties for Saginaw Valley State University, Delta College, and Concordia College; elected in 1996 to the State Bar Representative Assembly and the Saginaw County Bar Association Board of Directors; president, Saginaw County Bar Association, 1999-2000; Executive Board, Michigan Judges Association; community service over the years has included the Rotary Club, Boy Scouts of America/Law Explorers, Fraternal Order of Police, Greater Michigan Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Club; member, St. John Vianney Roman Catholic parish in Saginaw; appointed to Michigan Court of Appeals in 1999.



**JUDGE
WILLIAM B. MURPHY**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Grand Rapids; Aquinas College, 1963-1965; B.A., Michigan State University, 1965-1967; J.D., Wayne State University Law School, 1967-1970, cum laude, Wayne Law Review Board; law clerk, Michigan Court of Appeals, 1970-1971; civil and criminal trial practice, 1971-1988; founding partner, Murphy, Burns, & McInerney, P.C., Grand Rapids, 1973; adjunct professor, Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University; member, American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Grand Rapids Bar Association; president, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, 1986-1987; president, Kent County Office of the Defender, 1984-1988; trustee, Grand Rapids Bar Association, 1978-1980, 1988-1991; member, Representative Assembly, State Bar of Michigan, 1981-1984; member, State Bar of Michigan, Judicial Qualifications Committee, 1983-1987, 1994-1995; board member, State Bar of Michigan, Negligence Law Section, 1986-1988; member, Wayne State University Law School, Alumni Board of Directors, 1985-1988; president, Grand Rapids Catholic High Schools, Board of Education, 1988-1991; member, executive board, Villa Elizabeth, full-care nursing home for the aged, Grand Rapids, 1979-1985; Catholic Social Services, 1991-1994; member, board of directors, Grand Rapids Urban League, Project Rehab (substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation program) and Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan; member, Irish-American Lawyers Association, Catholic Lawyers Association, and Grand Rapids Women Lawyers Association of Michigan; fellow, Michigan State Bar Association; married to Paula; children: Bridget, Erin, Meghan, and Kara; appointed to Court of Appeals, 3rd District, March 17, 1988; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1988 and 1994; elected Chief Judge Pro Tem, 1992 and 1994; elected to Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, 1995 and 1998.



**JUDGE
JANET T. NEFF**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of East Grand Rapids; B.A., cum laude, University of Pittsburgh, 1967; J.D., Wayne State University Law School, 1970; estate and gift tax examiner, Internal Revenue Service, 1970; law clerk, Court of Appeals, 1970-1971; assistant city attorney, City of Grand Rapids, 1971-1973; associate and partner, VanderVeen, Frehofer and Cook, 1973-1978; special assistant attorney general, Second Injury Fund and the Silicosis and Dust Disease Fund, 1976-1978; commissioner, Michigan Supreme Court, 1978-1980; assistant U.S. attorney, Department of Justice, 1980; private law practice, William G. Reamon, P.C., 1980-1988; former member, board of directors, Easter Seal Society, Women's Resource Center, Junior Achievement, and United Way of Kent County; former member, board of trustees, Winchester Scholarship Fund; former member, Board of Commissioners, State Bar of Michigan; Grand Rapids Bar Association: treasurer, 1985-1987, vice-president, 1987-1988, president-elect, 1988-1989, president, 1989-1990; former member, U.S. District Court Professional Review Committee, Grand Rapids Area Legislative Business Forum, and Kensington Community High School Advisory Board; member, State Bar of Michigan Character and Fitness Committee; board of directors, Kent County Medical Foundation; faculty member, Federal Trial Skills Workshop, Federal Bar Association, Western District of Michigan; member, State Bar of Michigan, Grand Rapids Bar Association, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan; member, Michigan Supreme Court Judicial Information Systems Advisory Commission, Board of Governors West Michigan 32^o Masonic Learning Center for Children; co-chair, Women Building the Dream With Habitat for Humanity and WLAM, western region; married to David A. Neff, daughters: Genevieve and Meredith; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1988; reelected November 1994.



**JUDGE
PETER D. O'CONNELL**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Judge Peter D. O'Connell was born August 15, 1948, in Harrison Township, Macomb County. He graduated from Ferndale High School, holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University, a J.D. from the Detroit College of Law and was one of the first three judges in the United States to obtain a Masters of Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada. Judge O'Connell is on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the National Judicial College and an adjunct professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Judge O'Connell has served 16 years as the 76th District Court Judge. He is a former Chief Assistant Prosecutor in Isabella County and has been a visiting Circuit, District or Probate Judge in 30 Michigan counties. He is past President of the Michigan District Judges Association and has published articles that have appeared in the *Detroit Law Review*, *Criminal Practice Law Review*, *Colleague*, *Benchmarks* and the *Michigan Bar Journal*. Judge O'Connell has lectured extensively on the subject of jury management, jury selection and pre-trial publicity. Judge O'Connell resides in Mt. Pleasant. He was elected to the Court of Appeals on November 8, 1994, term expiring January 1, 2001.



**JUDGE
DONALD S. OWENS**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Williamston; born December 25, 1943, at Ann Arbor, Michigan; graduate of the University of Michigan: B.A. in Economics 1966, M.B.A. 1967, J.D. 1969; married to Jeanie Leyden Owens; four adult children: Michael, Daniel, Stephen and Elizabeth; in private practice with McLean, Seaman, Laing and Guilford, Lansing, Michigan, 1969-1974; Ingham County Probate Judge, 1974-1999; Chief Judge, 1984-1992, 1996-1999; Ingham County Circuit Court—Family Division Judge, by assignment, 1998-1999; named 1999 Michigan Judge of the Year by the Michigan Association of Court Appointed Special Advocates; present and past offices include: President, Michigan Probate Judges Association; President, Ingham County Trial Judges Association; Chair, Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan; Chair, Juvenile Court Rules Committee; Co-Chair, Family Division Joint Court Rules Committee; Chair, Juvenile Law and Adoptions Committee; Chair, Ingham County Election Commission; Chair, Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee, Ingham County Bar Association; Chair, Program and Education Committee, MPJA; Chair, Probate and Trust Law Committee, ICBA; Vice-Chair, Juvenile Law Committee, State Bar of Michigan; Associate Editor, Michigan Probate Judges Association publication *Inter-Com*; Judge of Moot Court Competition for Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Vice-President, Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan; Co-Chair, Lansing Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth; State Advisor, Michigan Child Studies Association; President, Steele Street School PTO; President, Kiwanis Club of Mason; Deacon, First Presbyterian Church of Lansing; Big Brothers/Big Sisters Advisory Board; present and past memberships include: Michigan Court Forms Committee; Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice; Coleman Commission; Probate and Juvenile Court Docket Tracking Committee; Probate and Juvenile Court Benchbook Steering Committee; Family Court Implementation Task Force; American Bar Association; State Bar of Michigan; Ingham County Bar Association; Michigan Judges Association; Michigan Probate Judges Association; Ingham County Trial Judges Association; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Nature Conservancy; Michigan Association for Emotionally Disturbed Children; N.A.A.C.P.; Urban League; Friends of the Michigan Women's Historical Center; Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; First Presbyterian Church of Lansing; Lansing Area Safety Council; Kiwanis Club of Mason; Beta Gamma Sigma; Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor; 4-H Softball Coach; AYSO Soccer Coach; lecturer for: Michigan Judicial Institute; Michigan Judges Association; Michigan Probate Judges Association; Institute for Continuing Legal Education; State Bar of Michigan; Michigan Family Independence Agency; Michigan State Police; University of Michigan; Michigan State University; appointed by Governor John Engler to the Court of Appeals, Fourth District, and took office December 1, 1999.



**JUDGE
HENRY WILLIAM SAAD**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Judge Henry William Saad was born on July 15, 1948, in Detroit. He graduated from Cody High School and received a degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with distinction from Wayne State University in 1971 and graduated magna cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University in 1974. Judge Saad was an associate with Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman from 1974 until 1981 and a partner of that firm from 1981 to 1994. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit School of Law, the University of Detroit/Mercy Law School, and the Wayne State University Law School. He has served both as an arbitrator with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and as a hearing referee with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Judge Saad is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the American, Detroit, and Oakland County Bar Associations, as well as a member of the Arab American Bar Association, in which he served as both treasurer and secretary. He has been involved with New Detroit, Inc., the United Foundation, ABA — Lawyers and Representatives of the Media Catholic Lawyers, and American Arabic and Jewish Friends and has been a board member of the Oakland Community College Foundation, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., and the Greater Detroit Inter-Faith Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, as well as having served as president of the Wayne State University Law Alumni Association. Judge Saad is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice and the Federalist Society. He serves on the Board of Trustees of WTVS, Channel 56 and is also a member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation and the American Heart Association. Judge Saad has had articles published in the *Employee Relations Law Journal*, *Management Solutions*, *Michigan Journal*, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, *Editor & Publisher*, *The Wayne Law Review*, *Michigan Practitioner Series*, *Family Law and Practice* (Chapter on Ethics), and *OCBA Laches*. Judge Saad resides in Bloomfield Hills. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor John Engler, effective December 23, 1994, to fill the unexpired term of Judge John Shepherd, a term ending January 1, 1997; reelected November 1996.



**JUDGE
DAVID H. SAWYER**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of East Grand Rapids; born July 14, 1947, at Grand Rapids; B.S. in public administration, University of Arizona, 1970; J.D., Valparaiso School of Law, 1973; married to Elsbeth F. Sawyer; children: Brent and Ryan; Episcopalian; former Kent County Prosecuting Attorney, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, and criminal justice teacher, Grand Rapids Junior College; former president, vice president, treasurer, and board member of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan; member, State Bar of Michigan; fellow, State Bar of Michigan; board member, Highland Park Association; member, Grand Rapids Rotary Club; member, Federalist Society; member, Arizona Letterwinners Association; board member, Senior Meals; president, West Michigan Air Force Academy Parents' Club; chairman, Kent County Justice Center Task Force, 1997; member, Kent County Courthouse Design Committee, 1998; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1986 and reelected in 1992 and 1998.



**JUDGE
MICHAEL R. SMOLENSKI**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Born November 28, 1944 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to J. Robert and Mary B. Smolenski; married to Kathleen Smolenski; seven children; family active in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Grand Rapids, Michigan; graduate of Grand Rapids Catholic Central, 1962; attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1962-1964; B.A., political science, University of Michigan, 1966; graduated University of Michigan Law School, 1969; Kent County Legal Aid Society, June 1969 to December 1969. JAG Officer and Special Court-Martial Judge in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1970-1973; employed by Grand Rapids City Attorney, 1973; general trial practice, Bergstrom, Slykhouse and Shaw, P.C., 1973-1977; partner, in general practice of law with Michael B. Quinn, 1977-1984; appointed by Governor Blanchard to 61st District Court bench replacing his retired father, J. Robert Smolenski, 1984; elected to the Kent County Circuit Court, 1990; elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals, 1994; served two terms as Kent County Commissioner 1979-1982; founding member, Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, 1973, and Stepping Stones Montessori School, 1982; former member, board of directors, Baxter Community Center; former board member, Dispute Resolution Center; former member, St. John's Home Advisory Board, YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin Board, and Kent County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee; founding member, New Start Program for treatment of chronic alcoholic repeat offenders; original member, Citizens Advisory Task Force for Community Development in Grand Rapids, 1974.



**JUDGE
MICHAEL J. TALBOT**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Grosse Pointe, born August 8, 1945 in Wayne County, Michigan. He graduated from Divine Child High School in Dearborn in 1963, from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration in 1967, and from the University of Detroit School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1971. He was employed by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Detroit from 1967 to 1969, and he was a member of the Labor Relations Staff for Leaseway Transportation from 1969 to 1972. He served in the United States Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975, graduating from the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia as a Second Lieutenant. From 1972 to 1978, Judge Talbot was a partner in the law firm of Talbot, Grant & McQuarrie. He was appointed to the Common Pleas Court for the City of Detroit by Governor Milliken in April 1978 and to the Recorder's Court for the City of Detroit in 1980. Governor Engler appointed him to the Wayne Circuit Court in 1991 and to the Court of Appeals in 1998 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Maureen Pulte Reilly. In November of 1998, he was elected to serve the remainder of Judge Reilly's term. Judge Talbot is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the International Academy of Trial Judges, the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers, and the B'nai B'rith Barristers. He has been chairperson of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar, a member of the Special Committee, Victims of Crimes, the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, and the Committee of Court Administration. He has received the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan Service Award twice, the State Bar of Michigan Service Award, and the Michigan Corrections Association Judicial Servant Award. He has also served as a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College, a member of the faculty and the Judicial Advisory Board of the National Organization Victim Assistance, and on the boards of Jefferson House (a residential drug treatment facility), Project Transition, Franklin Wright Settlement, and the Parish Council, Annunciation Parish. His community activities include being on the Board of Education for the Archdiocese of Detroit, being on the advisory board, Victims Organized Toward Equity, actively assisting in the drafting and passage of the Victim's Rights Act in Michigan, and being the Housing Commissioner for the City of Detroit from 1975 to 1978.



**JUDGE
WILLIAM C. WHITBECK**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Judge William C. Whitbeck was born on January 17, 1941, in Holland, Michigan, and was raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His undergraduate education was at Northwestern University, where he received a McCormack Scholarship in Journalism. He received his LL.B. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1966, and was admitted to the Michigan Bar in 1969. Judge Whitbeck has held a variety of positions with the state and federal governments, including serving as Administrative Assistant to Governor George Romney from 1966 to 1969, Special Assistant to Secretary George Romney at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1969 to 1970, Area Director of the Detroit Area Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1970 to 1973, Director of Policy of the Michigan Public Service Commission from 1973 to 1975 and Counsel to Governor John Engler for Executive Organization/Director of the Office of the State Employer from 1991 to 1993. He served on the Presidential Transition Team of President-Elect Ronald Reagan in 1980, and as Counsel to the Transition Team of Governor-Elect John Engler in 1990. In private practice, Judge Whitbeck was a partner in the law firm of McLellan, Schlaybaugh & Whitbeck from 1975 to 1982, a partner in the law firm of Dykema, Gossett, Spencer, Goodnow & Trigg from 1982 to 1987, and a partner in the law firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn from 1993 to 1997. Judge Whitbeck is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bar Association, the Ingham County Bar Association, the Castle Park Association, and the Michigan Historical Commission. He is also a Fellow of both the Michigan State Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. Judge Whitbeck and his wife, Stephanie, reside in downtown Lansing in a 125-year-old historic home that they have completely renovated. They are members of St. Mary Cathedral. Governor John Engler appointed Judge Whitbeck to the Court of Appeals effective October 22, 1997, to a term ending January 1, 1999. Judge Whitbeck was elected in November of 1998 to a term ending January 1, 2005.



**JUDGE
HELENE N. WHITE**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Detroit; born December 2, 1954, in Jackson Heights, New York. Attended Great Neck North Senior High School in Great Neck, New York, graduating in 1972; Barnard College, Columbia University, New York City, 1972-1975, A.B. cum laude; University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, J.D. 1978. Law clerk, Justice Charles L. Levin, Michigan Supreme Court 1978-1980. Elected Judge of the Common Pleas Court for the City of Detroit November 1980. Became 36th District Court judge through court reorganization, September 1981, served through 1982. Elected to Wayne Circuit Court November 1982, reelected in 1988, serving a total of 10 years. Elected to open seat on the Court of Appeals occasioned by retirement of Judge Joseph B. Sullivan, November 1992. Reelected November 1998. Member, State Bar of Michigan, Pennsylvania Bar Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Wolverine Bar Association, Detroit Bar Association, and National Association of Women Judges; serves on boards of Michigan Legal Services; COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) (board president 1992-1994); Metropolitan Detroit YWCA; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Urban Caring Institute; National Board of Governors and National Affairs Commission American Jewish Committee (former vice-president Detroit Chapter); advisory boards of Detroit Women's Forum and Sojourner Foundation; Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Junior Council 1990-1997; recipient of the Spirit of Detroit Award and Detroit Human Rights Commission Horizon Award.



**JUDGE
KURTIS T. WILDER**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Of Wayne County, born April 26, 1959, at Cleveland, Ohio; graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; A.B. Political Science, University of Michigan, 1981; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1984; private practice, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, Lansing, 1984-1989, Butzel Long, Detroit, 1989-1992; appointed by Governor John Engler to the 22nd Circuit Court in March 1992 and elected to the 22nd Circuit Court in November 1992 and November 1998; Chief Judge of the 22nd Circuit Court, 1995-1998; appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Engler effective December 30, 1998, to fill the unexpired term of Judge Myron H. Wahls, a term ending January 1, 2001; member, Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, Association of Black Judges of Michigan, Wolverine Bar Association, and Federalist Society; member and secretary, Michigan Judges Association; member, State Bar of Michigan Open Justice Commission, State Bar of Michigan Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, State Bar of Michigan Judicial Ethics Subcommittee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity-Gamma Rho Boule; member and secretary of Board of Directors, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan; past member and director, Ann Arbor Rotary Club; married to Cindy, two children.



**JUDGE
BRIAN K. ZAHRA**

Term expires January 1, 2001

Judge Brian Keith Zahra resides in Northville Township, and was born January 9, 1960. He is a 1977 graduate of Dearborn Divine Child High School; holds a Bachelor of General Studies degree from Wayne State University (1984); and a J.D., cum laude, from University of Detroit School of Law (1987). Member, University of Detroit Law Review (1986-1987). Judge Zahra served as law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence P. Zatkoff, United States District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan (1987-1989) before joining and becoming a partner with Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman (1989-1994). Judge Zahra is an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit/Mercy Law School (1994-1999). He served on the Domestic Violence Legislation Implementation Task Force (1995-1997) and on the advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute Domestic Violence Benchbook (1998). Judge Zahra is a member of the Kiwanis Club International, the Federalist Society, the Catholic Lawyers Society, the Detroit Community Initiative, Leadership Detroit; Boys & Girls Club/Alumni Association, the Maltese American Benevolent Society, and the Maltese American Community Club. Judge Zahra was appointed to the Third Circuit Court by Governor John Engler on December 20, 1994, and elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. Governor Engler appointed Judge Zahra to the Michigan Court of Appeals on January 1, 1999.